

**ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE (ATC)**  
**Meeting Minutes 12/12/18**

**Meeting Minutes** -- Wednesday, December 12, 2018, Lyons Room, Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm

**Attending:** Members: Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, John Ellis, Steve Moore, Brian Turnbaugh, Tim Lecuivre (Tree Warden). Visitors: Beth Melofchik, Deborah Dill, Keith Schnebly (member-in-process), Phil Tedesco (member-in-process).

**1. Meeting Minutes Duty**

- Brian took the minutes.

**2. New Members**

- Keith Schnebly and Phil Tedesco have successfully met with the Board of Selectmen and are scheduling appointments with the town clerk to be sworn in as new ATC members.

**3. DPW Tree Department Update**

- DPW crews have completed planting 150 new trees this fall: 100 were via citizen requests, 7 planted at Thompson School, 2 at Park Circle, 1 on Appleton St, 5 on Mass Ave. in East Arlington, and 35 in tree zone 1. Outreach to residents regarding watering new trees is improving. Additional overtime for DPW staff to water, or dedicated staff for watering is possibility for future. Tim will find data, specifically number of waterings, to determine costs per tree for watering. The Spring 2018 planting of 100 trees saw only three deaths of new plantings
- Damage to trees by snowplows discussed. In addition to piling snow on trees, it appears that damage is being caused by plows scraping tree trunks. ATC will write letter to Mike R (or Jim Mazzola) to express concern and request plow drivers be directed to avoid damaging trees and held accountable for tree damage.
- The Arlington High School construction plans are still in development. Current plans provide for an 80-ft setback from Massachusetts Ave. and the mature trees within this setback are planned to be preserved.
- Objections against street tree removal were made at the Dec. 10 tree hearing for 15 Kensington Road. The developer has no plans to appeal. The developer plans to remove two trees per bylaw and replant.
- The DPW now owns a gas leak detector and Tim has checked several fall planting sites for leaks. Frozen and wet soil prevented some fall soil testing; more testing to be done in spring after soils thaw and dry out. Adam Kurowski added known gas leak locations to GIS map. Tim can add details about amount of gas leak and status of repair. Tim is working to get about \$15,000 from National Grid to compensate for trees damaged by gas leaks, especially along Mystic Ave.
- ATC members Steve and Brian continue to update tree activity data in inventory.
- Tim submitted application for 16<sup>th</sup> year of Tree City USA certification.
- Construction guidelines poster for tree protection will be updated with new fee structure.

#### **4. Community Tree Canopy Program 2019**

- John is exploring potential nursery suppliers. ATC seeking 60-day warranty on leafing out of new plantings. Eliza has been in contact with Mirak Chevrolet about tree planting on their properties. Eliza will reach out to Chamber of Commerce to gauge interest among local businesses for participating in tree planting program. If interest is there, then we can collaborate to identify planting sites.

#### **5. Town Website**

- Tim /Susan will contact Joan Roman about updating website with new \$375/inch fees.
- Mary Ellen will try to link our finalized Tree Management Plan to town website.

#### **6. Emerald Ash Borer**

- Mike R. will include about \$50,000 for EAB treatment in FY2019 budget. An outside contractor will be sought to treat ash trees in good condition. A treatment plan will need to be developed, identifying what types of chemicals to use (organic or conventional). The ATC will help with researching treatment options to advise DPW. The ATC has table space reserved in lobby of Robbins Library in Spring 2019 for EAB public outreach.

#### **7. Bylaw Subgroup**

- The tree bylaw update subgroup has not met yet but will plan to meet in January.

#### **8. Spring 2019 plantings**

- Tree Zone 2 will get 50 new plantings in Spring 2019. Tim already has 100 tree requests for Spring 2019. The ATC will help organize volunteers to remove tree stakes and collect gator bags when no longer needed.

#### **9. New Business**

- Sustainable Arlington is initiating an “Earth Quest” around Earth Day 2019. ATC may consider a tree planting for event, or developing labels for trees listing ecological benefits such as carbon capture and other data from iTree ([www.itreetools.org](http://www.itreetools.org)).
- Visitor Deborah Dill discussed damage to trees caused by road salt. She has not received response to concerns from DPW. Would like to see review of town policy on road salt, with examination of costs. ATC Member, Ed Trembly, will be connected to Deborah to provide history.

#### **10. Approve November Meeting Minutes**

- Approved unanimously at 9:15pm with two amendments to correct paragraph numbering and include Brian in tree inventory updating work.

**Upcoming Dates:** Second Wednesday of the month, January 9.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:16pm